1	2	3	4	5
115.	Chowrigacha-Kandi	West Bengal	16	50
116.	Bandel-Naihati	West Bengal	9	30
117.	Jhargram-Purulia	West Bengal	136	356
118.	Budge Budge-Namkhana-Frazerganj	West Bengal	129	321
119.	Samsi-Harishchandrapur	West Bengal	28	91
120.	Balurghat-Hili	West Bengal	30	105
121.	Canning-Sonakhali	West Bengal	17	126
122.	Amta-Bongaon	West Bengal	16	65
123.	Buniyadpur-Kaliyaganj	West Bengal	35	131
124.	Budge Budge-Pujali	West Bengal	11	37
125.	Mekhliganj-Haldibari with extn. to Chandrabhanga	West Bengal	26	186
126.	Barsoi-Chanchal	West Bengal/Bihar	33	131
127.	Sivok-Giellikhola	West Bengal/ NE Region	25	105
	TOTAL:		12749	47934

(b) Out of the above mentioned 127 completed surveys, 33 new line projects have been taken up/proposed in Budget 2008-09. The works would be taken up and progressed as per availability of funds.

Wastage of fuel due to closure of rail crossings

†1680. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the lakhs of people waste their time, petrol and diesel unnecessarily due to closing of gates at railway crossings installed at various places in the country;

(b) whether Government has any scheme to construct underbridge or overbridge at important railway crossings in Rajasthan to avoid unnecessary wastage of time, money and labour and to provide facility to lakhs of passengers;

(c) the places identified by Government for this purpose; and

(d) the number of underbridges and overbridges to be completed during the year 2008 alongwith the details of such construction to be completed in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Level crossing gates are closed to facilitate safe running of trains on railways right of way. Railways construct Road over/under bridges on cost sharing basis if the traffic density at the level crossing is one lakh or more TVUs (TVU-A unit obtained by multiplying the

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

number of trains with the number of road vehicles passing over the level crossing in 24 hours); otherwise on deposit terms i.e. at the cost of the State Government concerned duly fulfilling certain preliminary pre-requisites required under extant rules. In addition, Road Over/Under Bridges (ROB/RUB) are also being constructed by NHAI (National Highway Authority of India) on Deposit term basis. Railways makes provision of funds in the budget on the basis of firm proposals received from the State Government for construction of Road over/under bridges on cost sharing basis.

Recently, General Managers of Zonal Railways have been given powers to sanction Limited Height Sub-ways depending upon site conditions, costing upto Rs. 45 lakhs each. These shall be considered based on criteria of safety, closure of nearby level crossing, local road users requirement etc.

The decision to take up work of construction of ROB/RUBs depends upon the proposal/ consent of the State Government to share the cost and agree for closure of Level Crossing.

(d) During the financial year 2007-08, Railway have targeted completion of two Road Over Bridge in lieu of LC No. 109 at Km. 921/11-14 at Rangpur and LC No. 71-A at Km. 92/12-13 at Hanumangarh in the State of Rajasthan. State Government Agency has also to complete their portion of the Road Over Bridge work at Hanumangarh.

Survey for gauge conversion

†1681. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals for rail lines included for survey for gauge conversion in the Rail Budget of 2007-08;

(b) the time frame fixed to complete the survey of above gauge conversion;

(c) the criteria fixed for sanctioning the above gauge conversion work after the completion of survey;

(d) whether any proposal for gauge conversion is being implemented under the National Railway Development Scheme in Rajasthan;

(e) if so, the details of the proposal and by when they would be implemented;

(f) whether Jaipur and Phulera, Ringas-Rewari section which is very sensitive and important, are also being included under the scheme; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Three surveys for gauge conversion of lines have been included in the budget for the year *2007-08* and are expected to be completed within a period of two years.

(c) Project Uni-gauge was taken up on 01.04.1992 and the policy adopted for taking up gauge conversion to carry out the conversion of lines at least cost yet providing a standard of service not lower than what the rail users were getting on the Metre Gauge covering the following areas:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.